

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04008 141658Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /079 W

-----023979 141703Z /46

O R 141635Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1744

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4008

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: AG EXPELS TWO CHURCHMEN

1. ACCORDING TO A LATE AFTERNOON PRESS REPORT JULY 14 FROM WINDHOEK, THE AG HAS ORDERED THE EXPULSION OF THE VICAR GENERAL OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NAMIBIA ED MORROW AND HIS WIFE LAUREE AND A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST FATHER HEINZ HUNKE. THE THREE HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO LEAVE THE TERRITORY WITHIN SEVEN DAYS.

2. EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR IN CONVERSATION WITH JOHN VIALI THE AG'S CHIEF ASSISTANT, SAID THAT THIS MOVE WAS IN-COMPREHENSIBLE AND CAME WITH UNUSUALLY BAD TIMING. VIALI SAID THAT HE RECOGNIZED THE TIMING WAS BAD BUT INDICATED
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04008 141658Z

THE MOVE HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR SOME TIME. THE AG HAD ONLY YESTERDAY, JULY 13, ISSUED THE NECESSARY PROCLAMATION EMPOWERING HIM (THE AG) TO DEPORT UNDESIRABLE PEOPLE FROM THE TERRITORY. UNDER THE PROCLAMATION AUTHORITY FOR DEPORTATION WOULD APPLY TO ANYONE WHO "THREATENED THE PEACE OR GOOD GOVERNMENT OF THE TERRITORY." IT WOULD ALSO INCLUDE THOSE WHO "HAD INFLICTED

OR THREATENED TO INFLICT HURT OR DAMAGE ON OTHER PEOPLE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN CERTAIN OBJECTIVES". VIALI SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD THE INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS BUT THAT IT WAS A MOVE THAT HAD TO BE TAKEN IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND ORDER. HE DENIED THAT THE DEPORTATIONS WERE RELATED TO MORROW'S AND HUNKE'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST ALLEGED TORTURE OF DETAINEES IN THE TERRITORY. VIALI INDICATED THERE WERE SERIOUS SECURITY REASONS BEHIND THE ACTION.

3. COMMENT: MORROW AND HUNKE HAVE LONG BEEN MAJOR IRRITANTS TO THE AG AND THE SAG. THEY ARE THE MOST OUTSPOKENLY PRO-SWAPO AND MILITANTLY ANTI-SAG OF THE NAMIBIAN CLERGYMEN. EARLIER THIS YEAR THE POLICE SUSPECTED MORROW OF COMPLICITY OR FOREKNOWLEDGE IN THE FLIGHT OR ALLEGED ABDUCTION OF STUDENTS FROM AN ANGLICAN SECONDARY SCHOOL IN OVAMBO.

4. THE DEPORTATION ORDER WAS DISCUSSED BY THE PRETORIA FIVE AT A MEETING TODAY, JULY 14. BRITISH AMBASSADOR SCOTT AND WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR EIKE INFORMED THE GROUP THEY WOULD CALL DEPUTY SECRETARY VAN DALSEN AT DFA (FOURIE IS OUT OF TOWN) TO EXPRESS THEIR DISMAY AND URGE THAT THE AG ANNUL THE DEPORTATION ORDER. THE GROUP AGREED TO RECOMMEND THAT NO PUBLIC STATEMENT BE MADE ON THE ISSUE AT THIS TIME TO AVOID CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PRETOR 04008 141658Z

DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE ACTION AND MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE AG TO BACK DOWN.
EDMONDSON

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